

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) System

Position	Definition	Character	Description
1	Country of Origin	1 2 3	United States; Canada; Mexico
2	Manufacturer	G	General Motors
3	Make	B C D T N K Y	Chevrolet; Incomplete Chevrolet Truck; GMC; Incomplete GMC Truck; Chevrolet Multi Purpose Vehicle; GMC Multi Purpose Vehicle; Cadillac Multi Purpose Vehicle
4	GVWR/Brake System	B C D E F G H J K	3001-4000/Hydraulic; 4001-5000/Hydraulic; 5001-6000/Hydraulic; 6001-7000/Hydraulic; 7001-8000/Hydraulic; 8001-9000/Hydraulic; 9001-10000/Hydraulic; 10001-14000/Hydraulic; 14001-16000/Hydraulic
5	Truck Line/Chassis Type	C K	Conventional Cab/4x2; Conventional Cab/4x4
6	Series	1 2 3 6 7 8	Half Ton; ¾ Ton, 1 Ton; 1/2 Ton Luxury; 3/4 Ton Luxury; 1 Ton Luxury
7	Body Type	3 4 6 9	Four-Door Cab/Utility; Two-Door Cab; Suburban/Denali XL Two-Door Utility; Extended Cab/Extended Van
8	Engine Type	V U T W G 1	(LR4) 4.8L Gas; (LQ4) 6.0L Gas; (LM7) 5.3L Gas; (L35) 4.3L Gas; (L18) 8.1L Gas; (LB7) 6.6L Diesel
9	Check Digit	--	Check Digit
10	Model Year	1	2001
11	Plant Location	1 E Z J G F X	Oshawa, Ontario; Pontiac, Michigan; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Janesville, Wisconsin; Silao, Mexico; Flint, Michigan; Experimental Engineering Manufacturing
12-17	Plant Sequence Number	--	Plant Sequence Number

Tips to understanding your VIN number:

Starting in model year 1954, American automobile manufacturers began stamping and casting identifying numbers on cars and their parts. The vehicle identification number has become referred to as the "VIN". The obvious purpose was to give an accurate description of the vehicle when mass production numbers were starting to climb in very significant numbers. Research has shown that early Vin's came in all sorts of variations which depended on the individual manufacturer at that time.

Starting in model year 1981, the National highway Traffic Safety Administration (U.S. Dept. of Transport) required that all road vehicles must contain a 17 character VIN. This established the fixed VIN system for major vehicle manufacturers as it is known today. Thus, establishing a unique "DNA" style number for each unique vehicle which rolled off the assembly line.

In 1985, the Department of Transportation issued the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard to try to reduce the number of motor vehicle thefts. This standard became effective beginning with model year 1987 vehicles and required that high-theft cars have 12 to 14 of its major component parts marked with the VIN. In 1994, the Theft Prevention Standard was amended to include multipurpose passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks. Also in 1994, NHTSA published the final rule amending the Theft Prevention Standard to also list the covered major component parts and replacement parts to be marked for each of the classes of

vehicles: the engine, transmission, front and rear bumper, right and left front fender, hood, right and left front door, right and left rear door, sliding cargo door(s), right and left quarter panels, right and left side assembly, pickup box, and /or cargo box, rear doors, decklid or hatchback and tailgate. The effective model year for this amendment was 1997.

The 17 character VIN is decoded as follows:

1st character- Identifies the country in which the vehicle was manufactured.

For example: U.S.A.(1or4), Canada(2), Mexico(3), Japan(J), Korea(K), England(S), Germany(W), Italy(Z)

2nd character- Identifies the manufacturer. For example; Audi(A), BMW(B), Buick(4), Cadillac(6), Chevrolet(1), Chrysler(C), Dodge(B), Ford(F), GM Canada(7), General Motors(G), Honda(H), Jaguar(A), Lincoln(L), Mercedes Benz(D), Mercury(M), Nissan(N), Oldsmobile(3), Pontiac(2or5), Plymouth(P), Saturn(8), Toyota(T), VW(V), Volvo(V).

3rd character- Identifies vehicle type or manufacturing division.

4th to 8th characters- Identifies vehicle features such as body style, engine type, model, series, etc.

9th character- Identifies VIN accuracy as check digit.

10th character- Year of Manufacture.

G = 1986

H = 1987

J = 1988

K = 1989

L = 1990

M = 1991

N = 1992

P = 1993

R = 1994

S = 1995

T = 1996

V = 1997

W = 1998

X = 1999

Y = 2000

1 = 2001

2 = 2002

3 = 2003

11th character- Identifies the assembly plant for the vehicle.

12th to 17th characters- Identifies the sequence of the vehicle for production as it rolled of the manufacturers assembly line.